



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

7590 08/08/2008

Grant A. Johnson
IBM Corporation, Dept. 917
3605 Highway 52 North
Rochester, MN 55901-7829

EXAMINER	
DISTEFANO, GREGORY A	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2176	
DATE MAILED: 08/08/2008	

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/677,428	10/02/2003	Gregory Richard Hintermeister	ROC920020161US1	8449
TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISPLAYING AND MANAGING INHERITED VALUES				

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1440	\$300	\$0	\$1740	11/10/2008

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

7590

08/08/2008

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Grant A. Johnson
IBM Corporation, Dept. 917
3605 Highway 52 North
Rochester, MN 55901-7829

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/677,428	10/02/2003	Gregory Richard Hintermeister	ROC920020161US1	8449

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISPLAYING AND MANAGING INHERITED VALUES

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1440	\$300	\$0	\$1740	11/10/2008

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
DISTEFANO, GREGORY A	2176	715-764000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/677,428

10/02/2003

Gregory Richard Hintermeister

ROC92002016IUS1

8449

7590

08/08/2008

Grant A. Johnson
IBM Corporation, Dept. 917
3605 Highway 52 North
Rochester, MN 55901-7829

EXAMINER

DISTEFANO, GREGORY A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED: 08/08/2008

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 599 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 599 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/677,428

Examiner

GREGORY A. DISTEFANO

Applicant(s)

HINTERMEISTER ET AL.

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's amendment filed 5/6/2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8,11-13 and 22-24.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

/Rachna S Desai/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2176

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Grant Johnson (Reg. No. 42,696) on 7/31/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing settings of applications executing on a computer system, comprising:

detecting configurations associated with a plurality of instances of an executing application, wherein each configuration comprises a plurality of settings;

receiving a setting selection from among the plurality of settings;

determining an inheritance state for the selected setting;

~~displaying a graphical indication of the inheritance state of the selected setting in an inheritance manager; and~~

~~displaying a current value for the selected setting in the inheritance manager, wherein the current value is displayed using a control type used by a managed application for the selected setting.~~

displaying a control widget associated with the selected setting for one instance of the application,

the control widget comprising an inheritance state indicator and a current value indicator;

wherein a current value is displayed using a control type used by a managed application for the selected setting;

displaying an inheritance relationship indicator that indicates the inheritance relationship between the selected setting and at least one other setting;

selecting the control widget associated with a desired setting for at least one of the plurality of instances of the application;

modifying the current value for the desired setting; and

modifying the inheritance state for the desired setting.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for managing settings of applications executing on a computer system, comprising;

detecting configurations associated with a plurality of instances of an executing application, wherein each configuration comprises, a plurality of settings;

receiving a setting selection from among the plurality of settings;

determining an inheritance state for the selected setting;

~~displaying a graphical indication of the inheritance state of the selected setting;~~

and

~~displaying a current value for the selected setting, wherein the current value is displayed using a control type used by a managed application for the selected setting;~~

displaying a control widget associated with the selected setting for one instance of the application,

the control widget comprising an inheritance state indicator and a current value indicator;

wherein a current value is displayed using a control type used by a managed application for the selected setting;

wherein the ~~graphical indication of the~~ inheritance state indicator indicates at least one state chosen from the group consisting of: the selected setting is inherited by another setting, the selected setting is inheriting from another setting, the selected setting is both inheriting from another setting and is being inherited by another setting, and the selected setting is not inheriting or being inherited.

displaying an inheritance relationship indicator that indicates the inheritance relationship between the selected setting and at least one other setting;

selecting the control widget associated with a desired setting for at least one of the plurality of instances of the application;

modifying the current value for the desired setting; and
modifying the inheritance state for the desired setting.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the graphical indication of the inheritance state indicates at least one state chosen from the group consisting of: the selected setting can inherit or be inherited, and the selected setting cannot inherit or be inherited.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying a graphical indication of the inheritance relationship between the selected setting and at least one related setting.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the at least one related setting comprises a setting that is not currently in an inheritance relationship with the selected setting.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the graphical indication of the inheritance relationship comprises an inheritance indicator.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising: receiving a change inheritance relationship command; and changing the inheritance relationship for the selected setting.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising determining whether changing the inheritance relationship for the selected setting will affect other settings.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising: receiving a change inheritance state command; and changing the inheritance relationship for the selected setting.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising determining whether changing the inheritance relationship for the selected setting will affect other settings.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising updating the other settings.

14-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) A method for managing instances of an application in an IT system, comprising:

(a) launching a manager for managing a plurality of executing instances of an application, the manager comprising:

data representing a plurality of executing instances of the application;

a control widget associated with a selected setting for one instance of the application, the control widget comprising an inheritance state indicator and a current value indicator;

wherein the current value is displayed using a control type used by a managed application for the selected setting; and

an inheritance relationship indicator that indicates the inheritance relationship between the selected setting and at least one other setting;

(b) selecting the control widget associated with a desired setting for at least one of the plurality of instances of the application;

(c) modifying the current value for the desired setting; and

(d) modifying the inheritance state for the desired setting.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein detecting the configurations comprises reading configuration files and further comprising updating the configuration files.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein detecting the configurations comprises reading configuration files and further comprising updating the configuration files.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8, 11-13, and 22-24 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The incorporation of the limitations of *"the control widget comprising an inheritance state indicator and a current value indicator"*, *"wherein a current value is displayed using a control type used by a managed application for the selected setting"*, and *"displaying an inheritance relationship indicator that indicates the inheritance relationship between the*

selected setting and at least one other setting " into the independent claims 1 and 2, renders moot the obviousness rejection of Hanchett (US 6,834,301), in view of Hayes, Jr. (US 6,205,476).

The closest arts of record are that of Hanchett and Hayes.

Hanchett teaches of a method of using inheritance for configuring, managing, and monitoring applications on a computer network. Hanchett's method consists of a hierarchical display of a network where settings for an application may be inherited through the hierarchy from node to node. However, Hanchett does not teach or suggest any form of "control widget" where the widget would show an inheritance state and a current value.

Hayes teaches of a method of an administrator managing the settings of a plurality of applications. Hayes's method also utilizes a hierarchical approach to organizing group listings and of an inheritance state indicator (Fig. 18, #1820). Hayes also teaches that an administrator may configure a user application by running the application in the context of a user (abstract), therefore the current values would be display using a control type of the managed application. However, Hayes does not teach or suggest of displaying an *"inheritance relationship indicator that indicates the inheritance relationship between the selected setting and at least one other setting"*. While Hayes does show whether a group member has been inherited into a group (Fig. 18), Hayes fails to suggest that this indication may show a relationship between a selected setting and at least one other setting.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

-Kurosawa et. al. (US 6,047,288), group environment setting method and system thereof to provide an equivalent environment for plural participants.

-Hanfland (US 6,718,386), methods, system, and article for displaying privilege state data.

-Melchione et al. (US 2002/0091819), system and method for configuring computer applications and devices using inheritance.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GREGORY A. DISTEFANO whose telephone number is (571)270-1644. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. .

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached on 571-272-4137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/GREGORY A DISTEFANO/
Examiner, Art Unit 2176
8/2/2008

/Rachna S Desai/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2176